मिटको का एम. एम. टी. सी. के साथ विलयन

*104. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने मिटको का एम.एम.टी.सी. में विलय कर दिया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) मिटको में सरकार ने कुल कितनी पूंजी का निवेश किया हुआ है और उसका कार्य-क्षेत्र क्या था ?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (स्वतंत्र प्रभार) (श्री पी. चिदम्बरम) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) 'मिटको' भारतीय खनिज एवम् धातु व्यापार निगम लिमिटेड (एम.एम. टी.सी.) की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली एक आनुषंगिक कंपनी है । सरकार ने 'मिटको' में पूंजी का कोई निवेश नहीं किया है । इसके प्रमुख कार्य क्षेत्र अभ्रक स्क्रैप का निर्यात, संसाधित अभ्रक और अभ्रक उत्पादों का उत्पादन और निर्यात है ।

Rise in prices of cotton yarn

*108. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI JAGADISH JANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of cotton yarn of all counts have gone up considerably during the last few months;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the handloom exporters have requested the Centre to reintroduce the system of supplying cotton yarn through National Handloom Development Corporation to tide over the situation; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir. The prices of all counts of cotton yarn have gone up during the last few months.

(b) The main reason for increase in the prices of cotton yarn has been the rise in prices of raw cotton due to a decline in its production caused by unfavourable weather conditions and severe pest attack in certain cotton growing areas of the country. There were also increases in the cost of other inputs like power, wages and bank credit.

(c) and (d) The request of handloom exporters is for reintroduction of the Yarn Depot Scheme. This Scheme was earlier in operation during 1989-90 and 1990-91 under which yarn was supplied by National Handloom Development Corporation to handloom weavers at millgate price. This envisaged reimbursement to NHDC to the extent of 5 per cent of the value of yarn supplied by NHDC towards cost of transportation, interest on working capital and overheads. There is no proposal to reintroduce the Scheme at the moment. However, the NHDC has been asked to step up its supply of yarn to handloom weavers.

Security for the executives of nationalised banks in Punjab

*109. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 74 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th August, 1991 and state:

(a) whether some of the Senior Executives of the Nationalised banks in Punjab have been killed by the terrorists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide personal security to each of the Chief Executives of the banks in Punjab; and

(d) what further steps Union Government propose to take to remove fear in the minds of bank employees in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 3rd August, 1991 militants killed the Regional Manager and the Assistant General Manager of Punjab National Bank at Ludhiana.

(c) and (d) The State Government has been requested by Government of India and the leading banks in the State to provide adequate security to the senior executives of banks. The banks have also met the State officials on 26th August, 1991 and reviewed the arrangements in this regard.

Progress of vocational education in some States

*112. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vocational in some States;

(b) whether any study has been made in the matter;

(c) if so, what are the results of the study; and

(d) what steps are being taken or are proposed to be taken to attract more students towards vocational education with a view to providing gainful employment to them after their education?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) There are differences in the level of achievement among States/UTs in the implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education launched in February, 1988. Although some States are yet to pick up momentum, the Quick Appraisal studies conducted by NCERT in early 1990 in 6 States and 1 UT, overall indicated positive trends.

(d) The steps envisaged include starting of need-based vocational courses, organizing job-linked courses in collaboration with potential employers, review and amendment of recruitment rules, and facilitating self-employment.

Plan outlay for NWDP project

*114. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outlay for the National Wastelands Development Project during 1991-92;

(b) what has been the cumulative investment till date on the Project;

(c) whether any study has been carried out as to its effectiveness to the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The plan outlay in the Budget Estimates of 1991-92 for all activities and projects of the National Wastelands Development Board is Rs. 130.01 crores.

(b) The total expenditure on all activities and projects of the National Wastelands Development Board during the Seventh Plan period (1985—90) was Rs. 250.98 crores. In 1990-91, the expenditure was Rs. 83.7 crores.

(c) The National Wastelands Development Board was established in May, 1985. A review of the work done during the period 1985-86 to 1988-89 was carried out in 1989-90. With a view to enhance effectiveness, the Wastelands